

EEOICP

The Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program

Developing Claims

Part 2




**U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation**

Tips for Navigating through this Training

Each training page has embedded links to help you navigate through this training. Additionally, you may review the associated procedure manual or a list of DEEOIC acronyms.

- Procedure Manual tab



- Acronym tab



- Home tab - returns you to the beginning of training module



- Exit tab



- Next tab



- Previous page tab



- Page number



Also, links to documents and web pages (hyperlinks) are denoted with blue underlines.

Site Exposure Matrices Overview

U.S. DOL EEOICP Site Exposure Matrices--DOL Site Exposure Matri... Page 1 of 1



U.S. Department of Labor EEOICP Site Exposure Matrices

[close window](#)

The site specific information in this database reflects available data and may not be complete. The results should be used with a full understanding of the limitations of the current dataset.

Please Login

Username:

Password:



Make sure that cookies and java scripts are enabled.

Enter your username and password.

If you are an authorized user, and are having trouble logging in, please contact the EEOICP SEM site administrators.

<https://dol-sem.com/Login.cfm?CFID=48285&CFTOKEN=55344185...> 02/22/2011

Preparing for this Session

It is highly recommended that you access SEM during this training session so that you can perform the same type of SEM searches.

Click on the [SEM Web Page](#) button to the right to access the SEM web page.

U.S. DOL EEOICP Site Exposure Matrices--DOL Site Exposure Matrix Page 1 of 1
close window

U.S. Department of Labor
EEOICP Site Exposure Matrices

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[SEM Web Page](#)

<https://dol-sem.com/Login.cfm?PID=40285&OPTID=51344885> 02/22/2011

What we will cover in this Section

- Searching SEM with less than full information
- Worker Categories at DOE sites
- Construction jobs vs. production jobs
- Questions and answers to help you better understand how to utilize SEM



The Ideal Situation

The ideal situation for a SEM search would be:

- to have the labor category identified in SEM
- to know the building the employee worked in and have that building noted in SEM
- to know the work process performed and have that process identified in SEM
- to know the toxic substances the employee was exposed to and have those substances in SEM
- to know the employee's specific time period of work and to have that period of time noted in SEM
- to have the claimed illness readily identifiable and in SEM

However, that is a rare situation.

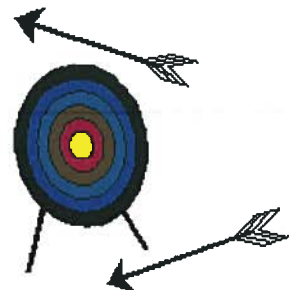


Reality

Reality is:

- you may not know the labor category
- you may not know the building the employee worked in
- you may not know the work process performed by the employee
- you may not know the toxic substances the employee was exposed to
- you may not know the specific time period of work
- employees often times did not know exactly what substances they were working with
- the claimed illness may not be readily identifiable and in SEM

This is especially true in survivor cases or where the living employee may not remember due to age-related memory loss.



Searching SEM With Less Than Full Information

When searching SEM with less than full information, it is important to be flexible when conducting your research in SEM. Do not stop your search because the labor category is not found. Check out labor category aliases, and search the building (s) the employee worked in. Search any work processes the employee was involved with. Use SEM to find out where a substance was used. The more you know about the specific site, its mission and its activities, the more beneficial use you can make of SEM. It is also important to ask lots of questions. Your co-workers may have had a similar situation and could be of some assistance with your issue.

Note: Use other sources of information to guide your SEM search such as the OHQ, the DAR, affidavits, FWP, etc.




Labor Categories and SEM Searches

Site documentation does not always indicate who (labor category) is performing a work process or using a toxic substance. Labor categories are sometimes known at the site level, but cannot be linked to work processes or toxic substances. These labor categories are included in SEM (for example #395 at Savannah River Site) and can be used to verify an occupational title, but cannot be used to start a search.



Example A

For example, take the labor category of a utility operator supervisor in the C-Area at the Savannah River Site. What can SEM tell us about this category?  Click on the green question mark.

For the example of a Utility Operator Supervisor (labor category) in the C-Area at the Savannah River Site, what can SEM tell us? The labor category is not in SEM but what labor categories would be closely related to a Utility Operator Supervisor? The labor category of a Utility Operator is in SEM and you could use the Utility Operator profile for the labor category of a Utility Operator Supervisor since a supervisor has the same basic exposures as workers.

Example B

An employee with lung cancer who was an electrician (labor category) at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. What can SEM tell us? ?

The labor category of an “Electrician” is not listed in SEM. You can use the labor category alias tool to determine that “electrician” is an electrical mechanic. An additional filtering on the health effect “lung cancer” tells us there were five toxic substances used by electricians that are associated with lung cancer. What next?

Worker Categories at DOE Sites

At the DOE sites, ***production*** workers are employees of the DOE prime operating contractors (e.g., Union Carbide). ***Construction*** workers are employees of DOE prime construction contractors, or employees of construction subcontractors, and there may be several tiers of subcontractors.

Two Step Process SEM Search for DOE Construction Workers

There are two types of exposures for construction workers – those typical of the construction craft and those that come from being on the DOE site. The two-step SEM process consists of

Step 1

Use “SEM Construction site” on Main Menu to identify hazards of the craft.

Step 2

For DOE site, select “Construction worker” as labor category and then select the building where work was performed to identify substances that are specific to the DOE site.

DOE Construction Example

- Let us take the labor category of a painter at the Pinellas site.
- The claimant said he worked for 4 years doing interior painting in Area 109F of the 100 Building in the mid-to-late 1970s.
- The claimed disease was chronic solvent encephalopathy.



DOE Construction Example Step 1

Case Specifics

Step 1:

- a. Select the Site from the drop-down menu for “Construction”.
- b. Select the labor category of “Painter”.
- c. After the search is completed put the returned page in the Keeper Stack.

DOE Construction Example Step 2

Case Specifics

Step 2

- Go back to the Main Menu and select “Pinellas” from the Site drop-down menu.
- Then select “Construction Worker” from the drop down menu of labor categories. DO NOT select Painter.
- At the top of the page, select “100/Area 109F” from the drop down menu.
- After the search is completed the CE should put the returned page in the Keeper Stack.

DOE Construction Example Step 3

Case Specifics

Step 3

- a. Go to the Main Menu and select the claimed disease “Encephalopathy, Chronic Solvent” from the “Toxic substance by health effect” drop-down menu.
- b. Suggestion: Put the returned page of toxic substances causing Encephalopathy in the Keeper Stack.
- c. Print the three pages in the Keeper Stack and look for matching toxic substances.

DOE Construction Example Conclusions

Case Specifics

The conclusions are

- that Acetone, Benzene and many other substances used by painters cause Chronic Solvent Encephalopathy.
- Trichlorethylene is associated with this disease and was used in 100/Area 109F by construction painters during typical craft activities.
- Many substances typically used by construction painters at Pinellas are associated with Chronic Solvent Encephalopathy.

SEM 101: The Basics #1

#1: To use SEM effectively, you must know if the claimant is a production worker (i.e., worked for the company that operated the site) or a construction worker. The answer dictates how you would use SEM to do your search.



SEM 101: The Basics #2

#2: Do not cite SEM as the reason a claim is being denied. If SEM does not have the needed information, use other sources (e.g., DAR and the occupational history interview). SEM is not 100% complete and never will be.

Important!!!

For example, when searching a chemical in SEM under “Alias” for 1,10-Phenanthroline ferrous sulfate, enter the search terms “1,10” or “Phenan”. Why not the entire chemical term?

Some people were employed by one DOE site but actually worked at another. Remember that SEM describes the site where the work was performed.

Security and Quality

SEM is unclassified meaning that there is no UCNi (unclassified controlled nuclear information), no official use only data, and no secret or confidential data. You should not, however, share the website or your password with unauthorized users. Dispose of unused printouts in the recycling bin or shred them.



Use the SEM User's Guide

SEM User Guide

The SEM User's Guide is available on the shared drive ([at \\AI-owdeeoic\DEEOIC\Eeoicp\Policies and Procedures\SEM User Guide](\\AI-owdeeoic\DEEOIC\Eeoicp\Policies and Procedures\SEM User Guide)). Making a hardcopy will facilitate use, provide step-by-step guidance, and provide information as to how to search, search parameters, screen displays, and how to get assistance.

Coordinate all policy/procedural questions through your supervisor.

When You Need Help

If you have log-in and access issues and need technical assistance or other help, you need to contact Mr. Steve Rudy, the SEM Site Administrator at Phone: 614-638-8159 or Email: dol-sem@earthlink.net. You should also contact your supervisor.



If you have other questions about information on the SEM or information that needs to be updated on SEM, forward these requests through the SEM Point of Contact person in the local district office.

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Congratulations! You have completed the SEM Overview Session of the DEEOIC Claims Examiner Training.

Enter your name in the field below and click OK to retrieve your certificate of completion.



OK



Certificate of Completion

This certifies that

Student Name

**has successfully completed the SEM Overview Session
of the on-line Claims Examiner Training**

Date

DOE Construction Example

- The labor category is a painter at the Pinellas site.
- The claimant said he worked for 4 years doing interior painting in Area 109F of the 100 Building in the mid –to-late 1970s.
- The claimed disease was chronic solvent encephalopathy.

